

BE SURE TO TEST SEED CORN

AGRICULTURAL
Experts predict short corn crop this year. Farmers advised to test every grain of seed in order to avoid loss—situation serious

By P. G. HOLDEN.

HERE will be a short corn crop this year and millions of dollars will be lost to the farmers if great care is not taken in selecting and testing the best matured corn for this season's planting.

We may well take the warning to heart, for this section of the country lives and prospers largely on the production of its land, and follow the advice of agricultural scientists who can tell our people how to escape heavy loss. This advice will work no hardship and no expense if followed. It will require a little careful work and sharp watching at a season of the year when the farmer is not overburdened with labor.

Nineteen fifteen was a bad year for corn. A cold, wet season retarded the growth of the grain. The crop in many parts of the corn belt was immature; it contains an excessive amount of water and is unfit for seed. The scarcity of seed corn is really the most serious in many years.

You farmers may say you are going to use seed from your 1914 crop. Don't trust it. The grain may have been damaged by the frost during the hard freezes of last year. Don't trust it—test it. The high price of corn, too, on account of the war has nearly exhausted the 1914 crop and this source of supply then is not reliable.

Missing Hills, Weak Stalks.
There are about 800 kernels on the average ear of corn. One poor seed means 800 weak, moldy or dead kernels. If these are planted it means missing hills and weak stalks producing little or nothing. According to reports just received, every indication points to very serious trouble with seed corn, especially in sections lying north of central Illinois and in North Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Iowa.

This community ought to get busy right now, for the prosperity of our community—our merchants, our bankers, our builders, our workers—depends on the prosperity of the farmers hereabouts. We ought to start a seed corn campaign. The county superintendent of schools can reach the farmers through the rural schoolteachers, who in turn will see that the children carry the message home. You bankers, merchants and implement dealers who trade directly with the farmers ought to write personal letters urging them to go into this matter scientifically. In short, all of us ought to mobilize our forces, just as our nation would have to mobilize all its resources in case of war.

You farmers must not use poor seed this spring. It means too much to all of us. Poor seed means not only a poor stand and a portion of the field idle, but that you must cultivate missing hills, one-stalk hills, and poor, worthless stalks, and receive nothing in return.

Don't Work for Nothing.
Thousands of people every year work more than a third of every day on ground that produces nothing. Do not depend for seed on the occasional good ears selected during the husking period. The corn will be injured by freezing before it is husked or before it has had time to become dry after husking.

Select the best ears, if you have not already done so, and string them on binder twine and hang up.

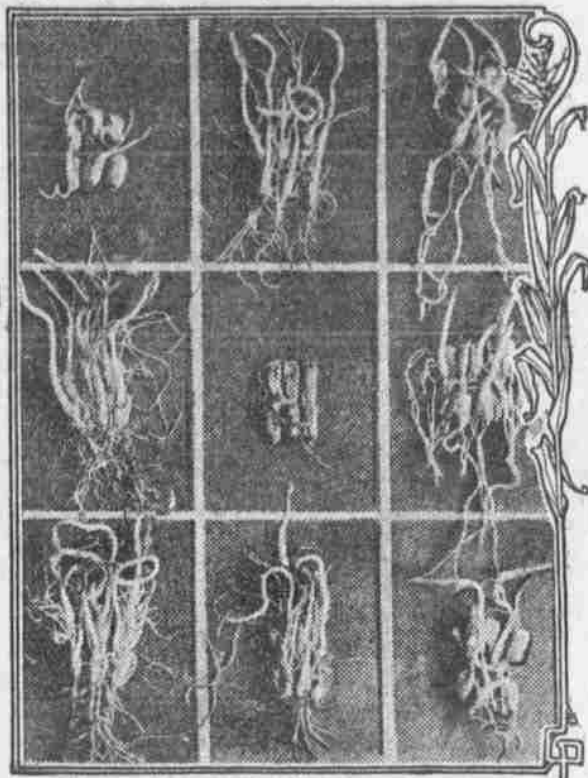
Do not store seed corn in barrels or boxes. It will "gather moisture" and mold or freeze. Do not store over the stable. Do not put immature or freshly gathered seed corn in a warm room, on the floor, or in piles. It will either sprout, or mold, or both. It should be hung up at once, and the windows opened to allow the freest circulation of air. Do not depend on the crib for seed corn.

One day devoted to the seed corn, at the proper time, may be worth more than an entire month of hard work next summer put on a poor stand of corn.

The attic is a good place to hang up the seed corn. There should be a circulation of air through the room. A space three by eight feet will hold 200 strings of corn, twelve to fifteen ears to each string, or about enough to plant 200 acres. Three-fourths of this



SELECT EARS CAREFULLY



SEED AFTER GERMINATION

corn may be discarded after testing, but there will be enough seed to plant fifty acres, more than the average acreage on each farm. There are several objections to the average cellar. It is apt to be too damp, and the corn must be well dried before putting in the cellar, and it must not be corded up or put in piles, but hung up.

Will Your Seed Corn Grow?

It is only good business to know that the seed that you put into the ground will grow; and the only way you can tell good seed is by testing it. You can't tell by merely looking at it. If you want profitable yields, you must plant good seed.

The ten million acres of corn planted in Iowa every year are grown in 217,000 farms, an average of about forty-six acres to each farm. It will take about 600 ears to plant forty acres. Twenty-four hours' time of one man, two days' work, will test six kernels from each ear to plant forty acres. Yet, because it is "too much bother," most of us pick out 600 ears, look at them, guess that they will grow, and plant them. As a consequence, more than twelve acres out of each forty acres of corn planted produce nothing. This is worse than useless, because one must plow, plant and cultivate these twelve acres and get nothing in return.

By testing you get rid of the bad, weak, and moldy ears. Testing does not hurt the corn. It costs but about ten cents an acre, and can be done at a time of the year when other farm work is not pressing. By testing you have everything to gain and nothing to lose.

Discard Poor Ears.

In the winter, during a slack season or in the early spring, from February 20 to March 20, select the best ears from the corn you have stored in the fall and get ready to put them through the test.

The sawdust germination box is no doubt the best method for testing seed corn. It costs nothing but a little time and labor. It furnishes nearly natural conditions. It is not essential that the box be of any particular size, although about thirty inches square and four or five inches deep will be found convenient. This size will test 100 ears at a time.

The sawdust is light, clean, and easy to get and handle in February and the first of March, when the testing should be done; is a good nonconductor of heat and cold, so that the temperature is kept even during germination, and holds the moisture so perfectly that there is no danger of drying out.

The number of boxes required will depend upon the amount of seed to be tested and the time limit. After the germination boxes are made, inspect carefully the ears you are to test from the standpoint of the kernel.

Take two or three kernels from each ear, about a third of the length of the ear from the butt. Lay them germ-side up at the tip of the ear from which they were taken. If the kernels are small, wedge-shaped, narrow, shallow, too deep, or if they show immaturity, starchiness, a tendency to mold, or if the germs are small, or shriveled, discard the ear.

Remove six kernels from six different places on each ear you have selected to test, taking two from near the butt on the opposite sides of the ear, two from near the tip, turning the ear enough so as not to take two kernels out of the same row.

How to Test Seed Corn.

Fill the box about half full of moist sawdust, well pressed down, so as to

leave a smooth, even surface. The sawdust should be put in a gunnysack and set in a tub of warm water for at least an hour (or still better, overnight) so that it will be thoroughly moistened before using. Rule off a piece of good quality white cloth (sheeting), about the size of the box, into squares, two and one-half inches each way. Number the squares, 1, 2, 3, etc. Place the cloth on the sawdust and tack it to the box at the corners and edges.

Use care that the kernels do not get mixed with those from the ear next to it. After the kernels are removed, boards may be laid over the rows of ears to keep them in place until the result of the germination test is known. Place the six kernels from ear No. 1 in square No. 1 of the germination box; from ear No. 2 in square No. 2, and so on with all the ears. Lay a piece of good cloth (a good quality of sheeting) on top of the kernels and dampen it. Press the cloth down gently with the palm of hand, being careful not to misplace the kernels in the squares.

Now place over this cloth another cloth of the same material, considerably larger than the first one (about six feet square), and fill in on top with two or three inches of moist, warm sawdust. Pack it down firmly with a brick or with the feet. The edges of the cover should then be folded over the sawdust in the box to prevent drying out. Now set the box away until the kernels sprout. Keep in an ordinary warm place, like the living room, where it will not freeze. The kernels will germinate in about eight days.

Remove the cover carefully to avoid displacing the kernels in the squares. Examine the kernels in each square in the germination box, and discard all ears whose kernels in the box are dead, moldy, or show weak germination.

Caring for Seed Corn.

If the kernels show weak, spindling sprouts, or a part of them are very weak and uneven, the ear should be thrown out to make place for an ear whose kernels give strong, vigorous sprouts. Remember that the kernels which are slow to sprout, and are weak, will be behind the strong ones in the field.

After the seed has been sorted, tested, shelled, and graded for the planter, and the bad kernels removed, it should be placed in half-bushel sacks and hung up in a dry place. Put in sacks, separate from the rest, the seed from the best 100 ears. When planting, use the seed from "the best 100 ears" on one side of the field from which to pick your seed corn for the next year's planting.

We cannot afford to neglect this important work. If every farmer would test every ear of his seed corn in the winter in the way described above, the yield would be wonderfully increased. No other time will be so profitable to the farmer as that spent in testing the vitality of his seed and in grading to insure the planter dropping the proper number of kernels in each hill. It is possible for everyone to do this work. It will cost nothing but the time, of which there is plenty at the season when the work should be done.

"CASCARETS" FOR LIVER, BOWELS

For sick headache, bad breath, Sour Stomach and constipation.

Get a 10-cent box now.

No odds how bad your liver, stomach or bowels; how much your head aches, how miserable and uncomfortable you are from constipation, indigestion, biliousness and sluggish bowels—you always get the desired results with Cascarets.

Don't let your stomach, liver and bowels make you miserable. Take Cascarets to-night; put an end to the headache, biliousness, dizziness, nervousness, sick, sour, gassy stomach, backache and all other distress; cleanse your inside organs of all the bile, gases and constipated matter which is producing the misery.

A 10-cent box means health, happiness and a clear head for months. No more days of gloom and distress if you will take a Cascaret now and then. All stores sell Cascarets. Don't forget the children—their little insides need a cleansing, too. Adv.

NOTHING FOR BROWN TO DO

Only Minor Matters Came Up, and Those Were Wife's Privilege to Deal With.

Col. J. J. Irish, who is a strong antisuffragist, said in San Francisco: "The recent elections show plainly the unpopularity of woman suffrage. I think the voters were wise. There are enough husbands already in Brown's boots."

"Brown and Black," continued Colonel Irish, "were arguing at their club on the question as to who should be the head of the house—the man or the woman."

"I'm the breadwinner," Black said firmly, "and, therefore, I rule in my house."

"Well," said Brown, "before we were married my wife and I made an agreement that I should make the rulings in all the major things, and she in all the minor ones."

"And how has it worked?" Black inquired.

"Brown smiled wanly. 'So far,' he replied, 'no major matters have come up.'—Exchange.

To Ease Her Mind.

The nurse was writing a letter for a wounded soldier.

"There's something I'd like you to put in, miss," said the soldier hesitatingly.

"Well, what is it?"

"You won't mind, now? Just put 'The nurses in this hospital are all rather elderly persons.'"

"That isn't quite true," said the youthful nurse.

"It isn't, miss; but it'll ease my missus's mind wonderful. She's always been a bit on the jealous side."

The missus's mind was eased.—Manchester Guardian.

Expensive.

"I'm thinking of spending the winter at Palm Beach."

"Believe me, old man, if you go there you'll spend more than the winter."

The man who is too poor to lend money to his friends will never have many enemies.

The tensile strength of a paper fly-wheel is far greater than one made of iron.

PROVED DEPTH OF HIS LOVE

By Saying He Would Do That Which Would Please Her Least If Put to the Test.

The two lovers sat together with clasped hands. It was one of those solemn, tender moments in the early dusk. But at last she turned her lovely face toward him, her rich voice quivering with emotion.

"Darling," she said, "I have something I think I ought to say to you. I hesitate to mention it, because it is about horrid business."

"Say anything you please," he murmured, rapturously.

"It is about our future. This is a practical age, an age of efficiency, when each one of us is taught to look ahead with some definite plan. Psychology teaches us that love is a well-defined and often limited mental vibration, subject to inevitable laws. Science has laid bare to us the secrets of human life. Sociology has shown that we are often the distressed victims of forces beyond our control. In view of these undisputed facts, in view of the possibility which, however remote it may seem to each of us at the present moment, I think it is my duty to ask you, in case after we are married anything should happen to draw us apart, just what regular alimony I could count upon?"

The lover at her side uttered a sigh of anguish.

"My darling," he muttered, "I shudder when I think of such a horrible possibility. Nevertheless, I hope I am big and broad enough to appreciate thoroughly the wise and thoughtful spirit in which you have had the supreme courage to approach this question."

He turned and faced her, taking both of her beautiful hands in his.

"And so," he replied, "I shall answer you truthfully. If things get so that we cannot live together, and I am called upon for alimony, you can count upon me not to give up one red cent, even if it takes all my salary to defend myself in the courts. Before I do that I'll keep on living with you!"

She buried her head on his shoulder.

"Now I know that you love me sincerely," she whispered.—Life.

Misleading.

Rev. George R. Lunn, the new socialist mayor of Schenectady, was congratulated on his election.

"The people have confidence in the honesty of my party's policy," he said. "Our opponents tried to put our principles in a false light, but the people couldn't be fooled. They know that the opposition's animadversions on our principles were as misleading as the bachelor's description of his sister's new baby."

"Asked to describe the new arrival, the bachelor replied:

"Um! Very small features, clean-shaven, red-faced and a very hard drinker."

Timid Rastus.

"What? Yo' calls Rastus Johnsing a brave man whafs afraid of nuthin' nor nobody?"

"Dat's de kind of a pusson I always took Rastus to be."

"Lemme tell yo' something. Rastus was at de ball las' night, an' when de trouble started he didn't have nuthin' but a safety razor."

What She Needed.

Hazel—Do you really believe that man is made of dust?

Almee—I don't know; but the one you marry should be made of gold dust.

His Chance.

Mrs. Henpeck—'Tis better to have loved and lost—
Mr. Henpeck—Than won.

MAKES ICE OF HOT WATER

Boston Scientist Also Has Succeeded in Boiling an Egg in Freezing Temperature.

Dr. W. P. Bridgman of Boston in creating new substances by pressure in the Harvard chemical laboratory, has crystallized water at nearly the boiling point. Only the limitations of his apparatus have prevented him from making ice at a temperature of thousands of degrees above zero, where the hardest metals melt. This hot ice is the permanent form of water under very high pressure, such as exists in the interior of the earth.

Twenty-two other liquids have also been crystallized at high temperature under the doctor's laboratory use of the immense forces of geology.

He has produced black phosphorus and 30 other new substances by pressure and also boiled an egg at freezing temperature by squeezing it with a pressure of 180,000 pounds to the square inch.

WOMAN'S CROWNING GLORY

is her hair. If yours is streaked with ugly, grizzly, gray hairs, use "La Creole" Hair Dressing and change it in the natural way. Price \$1.00.—Adv.

Specializing.

"What is your boy studying at school now?"

"Jedgin'," replied Farmer Cornstossel, "from the way he keeps reminding me of expenses, I should say it was mostly arithmetic."

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it

Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletcher* In Use for Over 30 Years. Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

At Least He Was Honest.

He was an honest little coon, but due to a lack of sanitary precautions his honesty was without benefit to the good woman who succored him. He was dirty, ingratiating and hungry when he appeared at her door. He asked for something to eat.

"I will give you something," she said, "but you must do a little work to earn it."

The little ducky said he was willing to work. So she prepared a huge sandwich and told him to go out and pick worms off the tobacco. A bit to her surprise he did not eat the sandwich at once, but slipped it inside his dirty little shirt, and started for the tobacco field. Half an hour later he returned. It was a torrid day and his face was shiny with perspiration. Grimly he reached inside his shirt and drew forth his sandwich untouched by his white teeth, but much the worse for dirt, perspiration and pressure.

"Missus," he said, "the wuhk is too hahd foh me. Take back yoh sandwich."—Louisville Times.

Suspicious.

"Aren't you delighted that your husband has given up smoking?"

"I don't know. I'm afraid he did it just for an excuse to give away those cigars I bought him for Christmas."

Another Reason.

"They call her the human graphophone."

"Just because she buzzes a bit?"

"It's on account of the airs she puts on."

Plenty of Material.

"Do you think that society belle will make much noise when she goes on the stage?"

"She ought to; she'll have a lot of clappers."

Sir Edward Carson originally intended to be an architect, but the attractions of the law proved too great.

A Food Fact to Remember

Seventeen years ago a food was originated that combined the entire nourishment of the field grains—wheat and barley—with ease of digestion, delicious taste and other qualities of worth designed to fill a widespread human need.

Today that food—

Grape-Nuts

has no near competitor among cereal foods in form or nutritive value, nor has it had from the start.

Grape-Nuts on the Breakfast Menu builds and maintains body, brain and nerves as no other food does. Ready to eat, economical, appetizing.

"There's a Reason"

JOIN THE THINKERS' CLUB

Grocers everywhere sell Grape-Nuts.